

9th E2K Space Laboratory opens in Nazareth



The Society for Excellence through Education (SEE) presented the Baptist School in Nazareth-Elite with the gift of a Space Research Laboratory, in recognition of the school's exemplary participation in the Excellence 2000 program (E2K) and the Space Team Program named in memory of Col. Ilan Ramon. The Baptist School has been part of the Excellence 2000 program for five years. In 2006, the Space Team Program was added to the school's academic offerings. The Space Team Program is named in memory of Col. Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut. Col. Ilan Ramon's brother, Gadi Ramon, spoke at the opening ceremony for the new Space Research Laboratory on May 12th, 2008.

Space Team schools are those in which the Excellence 2000 program has been run successfully, and that wish to offer an additional science program to excelling students. The Space Team allows students to meet for an additional two hours per week, to learn about astrophysics, the latest in space research and travel, and astronomy.

SEE is committed to providing advanced tools and equipment to Space Team schools. That is why the Baptist School has been presented with its very own Space Research Laboratory, for the use and enjoyment of the entire school population. This is the 9th lab of its kind in Israel. Each Space Lab is equipped with a telescope connected to a computer. This allows the students to focus on particular points or systems in the universe for observation and to take photographs (with the use of a digital camera that is also connected to the computer). The Space Lab provides a large library of space-related literature, special computer programs and models, and educational posters.



This school is an extremely important institution for Israel's small Baptist community. Many of the school's accomplishments can be attributed to the hard work of its principal, Dr. Usama Mualem. Dr. Mualem's special love of astronomy and astrophysics is infectious, and has been picked up by the students as well.

The Excellence 2000 students look forward to the many experiments and research projects that they will now be able to carry out in their newly-opened Space Team Program Research Laboratory.

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